



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives

June 20, 2011

REPRESENTATIVE

Eddie L. Cheatham

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DISTRICT 9

Counties:

Part Ashley

Part Drew

COMMITTEES:

Chairperson,

Education

State Agencies and Governmental
Affairs

Constitutional Issues Subcommittee

Joint Committee on Energy

Legislative Council

Mr. Julius Genachowski

Chairman

The Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I applaud this Administration and the Federal Communications Commission for their focus on expanding Americans' access to high-speed Internet service. This is especially important in rural communities in our state.

As chairman of the Education Committee in the Arkansas State House of Representatives, I believe strongly that high-speed Internet access is a vital link to better services such as education and healthcare. It also helps the farming community operate more efficiently and effectively, from checking weather and climate patterns to identifying which markets will offer the most competitive prices for their products.

The FCC should approve the proposed AT&T merger with T-Mobile (Docket 11-65) because the combined company has pledged to deploy high-speed 4G/LTE Internet service throughout our region. This would offer much-needed benefits to our entire community – from students to seniors, from farmers to small business owners.

Last year's National Broadband Plan correctly identified the lack of broadband access in rural communities: "As with fixed broadband, most areas without mobile broadband coverage are in rural or remote areas." My rural area feels the problems associated with this lack of access. That is why I encourage your support of the AT&T-T-Mobile merger, which will result in better, faster broadband access for those I represent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Eddie Cheatham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eddie" being more prominent.

Eddie L. Cheatham
State Representative
District 9